

APPROVED: Meeting No. 20-90

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 16-90

April 19, 1990

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on April 19, 1990, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepian

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

ABSENT

Councilmember James F. Coyle

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with
Senior Citizens Commission

James Henry, Chairperson, and members of the Senior Citizens Commission, discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

Matters Completed During the Past Year

Among the items discussed were:

- o Located and installed a replacement electric stove in the Pump House (at no cost to the City) in March 1990.
- o Bought telephone answering machine for senior transportation office in February 1990.

It was noted that Ring House is now 80% leased and that it is an eligible building for another senior club. The groundbreaking for the frail elderly housing at

Meeting No. 16-90

2

April 19, 1990

St. Raphael's is to take place in May, and another senior club will probably be formed there.

Councilmember Marrinan asked if there was enough staff support to help with the new clubs. Mr. Henry responded that support is in the nature of providing the club a flag and lectern and helping write the bylaws. Staff also helps plan special events involving these clubs, and it was acknowledged that current resources are sufficient.

Recommendations for Rockville Master Plan

Mr. Henry referenced the memo from the Planning Commission regarding updating the 1970 Master Plan. Since the Rockville Senior Center did not exist in 1970, it should be identified as a special public facility in the new plan. Additionally, the senior services program should be recognized as a defined human service. Inclusion of affordable senior citizens housing as an element in development plans was also mentioned, especially in light of potential creative land use planning within the maximum expansion limits.

Equitable Trash Fees for Seniors

Regarding equitable refuse collection fees for seniors, it was noted that the City Manager and Director of Public Works would be meeting with the Senior Citizens Commission on April 26 to discuss this matter. Mr. Henry indicated that there is a lot of plastic used at the Senior Center which can be recycled, and Mayor Duncan asked if the Senior Center could be a regular stop for pick-up of these items. The City Manager indicated that this would be discussed further with the Senior Citizens Commission on April 26.

Senior Transportation Program

Mr. Henry noted that the purchase of a new bus recently approved by the Mayor and Council was a replacement and that, although there are three buses, only two are normally available for daily transportation to the Senior Center as one is used primarily

as a back-up and for day trips. Commission member Estelle Berberian provided a detailed account of the senior bus situation.

With respect to the Commission's recommendation that the number of bus drivers be increased and the City purchase an additional vehicle, Mayor Duncan requested that the Commission provide detailed information which will be integrated into the budget process for consideration. Mayor Duncan also requested that the Commission recommend alternatives for raising additional revenues to offset the projected increases in transportation costs.

Re: Worksession with
Economic Development Council

Craig Falk, Chairperson, and members of the Economic Development Council (EDC) discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

Small Business Forum

Mr. Falk advised that there was an enthusiastic response to the small business forum held last month which was coordinated through MIT Enterprise Forum and the Montgomery County High Technology Council. The next forum, scheduled for May 31 at the Civic Center Mansion, will provide a good opportunity to meet informally with small business representatives in the area.

Implementation of a Survey to Study the
Business and Employment Base in Rockville

Although the EDC has proceeded to prepare a survey, implementation of the survey was held in abeyance pending the appointment of a new Director of Community Development. Mr. Falk indicated that the EDC did not wish to duplicate information being collected by the Planning Commission in connection with the revision and update of the Master Plan. Copies of the sample survey will be provided to the Mayor and Council, and Mayor Duncan requested that staff and the Economic Development Council outline in memorandum form the projected costs and timeframe associated with

Meeting No. 16-90

4

April 19, 1990

administration of the survey.

Establishment of a Local Development Corporation
as a Vehicle for Investment in Business Development

The use of a local development corporation as a mechanism for promoting projects in the City and providing support to small businesses which originated in Rockville was discussed. Mayor Duncan inquired as to what happened with the small business loan program. Mr. Falk responded that he and the former president of the Chamber had met with area banks regarding this program, but that the focus of the Chamber has been reoriented to larger projects. Mayor Duncan noted that the original discussions centered on underwriting some of the costs or providing seed money to help small businesses expand or get started. Discussion followed regarding the merits of a local development corporation administering the small business loan program and the feasibility of its use in promoting moderate priced housing as well as the revitalization of the Town Center. Mayor Duncan requested that the EDC provide recommendations as to the purpose and structure of such a program and, once the Mayor and Council and EDC have reached agreement, the Chamber should be invited to participate.

Re: Worksession with the
Historic District Commission

Alice Kelly, Chairperson, and members of the Historic District Commission, discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

Review of Commission Activities

- o Historic Preservation Tax Credit for property owners (Bill No. 13-89 effective January 29, 1990).
- o Lincoln High School Map Amendment. The Commission indicated that they are pleased that the Mayor and Council have instructed staff to prepare the necessary documents to place the school and the entire site in the historic district.

- o Civic Center Map Amendment. The Commission has requested a larger area to include the rose garden and part of the driveway. Mayor Duncan requested that the Commission meet with the Recreation and Park Advisory Board to discuss how the historic designation will affect their work plan with respect to renovations of the mansion.
- o Certifications of Approval.

Future Work Items

- o Historic Resources Management Plan. Commission members indicated that they would like to increase the survey of houses and prepare an historic building catalogue. They will work with Peerless Rockville and seek a matching grant from the state. Mayor Duncan requested that a specific request be prepared for review during the budget process.
- o Proposal and Implementation of Signage Program to Promote Historic Districts and Resources throughout the City. The study of the evolution of different neighborhoods in Rockville was discussed as well as education of property owners, tours, tour guides and promotion signage. It was noted that this project should be done in conjunction with the Recreation and Park Advisory Board as some of the areas lead into the bikepaths. Using signs of a different color to identify the Historic District was mentioned, but it was noted that the Historic District can be recognized by the amenities, such as all brick sidewalks.
- o Public Relations and Education - Publication for Historic District Homeowners of Historic District Procedures. Mayor Duncan requested that any funds sought from the City for this project be integrated into the budget process.
- o Garden Master Plan for Historic Properties. The Commission was requested to

Meeting No. 16-90

6

April 19, 1990

work with the Recreation and Park Advisory Board on this project.

- o Technical Aspects of Historic Preservation Lecture Series. Discussion followed regarding Peerless Rockville developing a Rockville museum, the Commission sending out packets including an historic resource map and guidelines as well as information on tax credits. Also discussed was acquiring oral histories of former Mayors. Again, Mayor Duncan requested that specific details be provided for any items having a budgetary impact.

Re: Worksession with
Alternative Community Services
Commission

Sally Roy, Chairperson, and members of the Alternative Community Services Commission, discussed the following items with the Mayor and Council.

Review of Commission Activities

Ms. Roy noted that the Commission had met once a week during the summer and winter in an effort to revitalize the Commission. Commission members have been reacquainted with the police during roll calls in an effort to identify cases as they move through the system. The Police Department is in full agreement with the issues identified by the Commission.

Future Work Items

In connection with the intern program, the Commission has been working with area universities. Montgomery College is very anxious to establish an intern program. Concern was expressed that when the Commission was very active, the staff liaison worked almost full-time on Commission issues. The time he is now able to dedicate to the Commission has been reduced due to other commitments, and the Commission requested a guarantee of resources. Officer Jeff Parke will be reviewing the cases, and the intern will provide supplemental support.

With the assistance and commitment of the Police Department, the Commission

Meeting No. 16-90

7

April 19, 1990

expects to have its first case by the end of May. Mayor Duncan requested a periodic status report on cases once the Commission begins receiving referrals.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on April 23, 1990, or at the call of the Mayor.